

Editorial Opinion

A 'Face-Saving' Device?

For several years now we have been told that this University is moving forward at a rapid pace . . . that by the end of the decade it will be one of the top ten universities in the nation . . . and that this is being caused by a forward-looking and progressive faculty, administration and Board of Trustees.

We have our doubts.

The faculty may meet these requirements, but the Trustees did not during the past weekend.

The Trustees cast this University's lot with that group which "lets the other fellow do it first" when they tabled a motion to abolish compulsory ROTC. (In this case they wouldn't have even been taking the first step since several other major universities have already abolished compulsory ROTC.)

The Board's official reason for tabling the motion was a desire to wait to see what action the U.S. Congress takes on a bill to change the present ROTC set-up.

The change proposed by the Defense Department would establish and give priority to a two-year voluntary ROTC program. But, schools could maintain their four-year program either on a voluntary basis or with two years of compulsory training as this University now has.

The bill was drafted by and has the full support of the Department of Defense. No action has been taken on it by either house of the Congress.

Congressional action is a slow process. No one can predict how or when the Congress will act.

We could be waiting for congressional action on this bill ten years from now. And in the meantime, while the Trustees wait, Penn State students will be forced to take courses which neither the University Senate or the Department of Defense believes they should be required to take.

We realize that this school has a long history of excellent and faithful service to the armed forces of this country. Its ROTC program has been one of the best, both in training and number of officers graduated, in the nation.

This leads us to believe that the Board's action was one of "saving face" rather than one designed to do what was best for the future and the students of the University.

The faculty did not believe elimination of compulsory ROTC would be harmful to the University. And members of the faculty rely on the status of this University for their future jobs and personal standing within the academic world.

The Board of Trustees must shed its conservative views. It must be progressive, looking with favor upon new, bold, and perhaps even daring moves. Such actions are necessary if this University is to move into its predicted category of one of the top ten universities in the United States.

We Want Froth

Unless there are any other unforeseen delays, the Committee on Student Organizations will decide this morning whether to approve the charter of the new Froth.

We have stated our opinion backing all efforts for a new Froth many times. We can only reiterate our stand that a good, clever humor magazine, which the new Froth promises to be, will be a valuable addition to this University.

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58 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Letters to the Editor

Music Major Offers Defense For 'Squeaks'

TO THE EDITOR: From Philip Currie's letter in Friday's Collegian, it is perfectly obvious that he has no idea of the purpose of the student practice rooms in Carnegie. Students in music education are required to achieve a certain degree of proficiency in a number of instruments. For most of the instruments, only a rudimentary knowledge is necessary, and learning to play these instruments is as least as painful for most of us as it is for him to hear.

The squeaks and honks Currie hears come from the same people who are quite pleasant to hear on their major instruments. All students, however, must achieve a somewhat advanced performing ability in both piano and voice.

This brings us to the next point: practice conditions are generally poor in the music department, and the pianos are terrible. Effort is being made to correct these conditions, of course, but the conditions exist nevertheless. In this same vein, the listening equipment in the music library is less than mediocre. One well-known faculty member used the term "scandalous."

Currie's rather inane suggestion to eliminate music students learning to play new instruments does nothing to help the situation; rather it annoys people like me. Perhaps it relieves his frustration at being given office space in one of our few practice rooms.
—John Pennington '64

Wharton Presents Formal Request For Froth Charter

TO GEORGE L. DONOVAN: It is my understanding that Merle E. Campbell (dean of student affairs for Commonwealth campuses) and George S. Zoretich (head of the art department) have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the new Froth and further, that Zoretich has agreed to appoint an advisor from the art department.

Our committee (USG Froth Committee) is unanimous in the approval of the substitution of the dean of Commonwealth campuses and head of the art department. We hope your committee will agree with us that they should fill the open board positions and that you will be able to approve this constitution this morning.

We also urge that in your statement to the Administrative Committee on Student Affairs you will see fit to ask that all due consideration be given to the student desires to gain final approval and chartering.

We further urge that this decision be made sufficiently early to allow this new Froth to begin publication this academic year. We feel that it would be exceedingly difficult for the new Froth to realize the high standards expected of it without the benefit of an experienced staff.

—Dean W. Wharton, Student body president

WDFM Schedule

TUESDAY, JAN. 29, 1963

- 4:15 The Philadelphia: Barber, Adagio for Strings; Mozart, Violin Concerto
5:00 Dinner Date; relaxing dinner music
5:00 This Week at the United Nations
6:15 Weatherscope
6:20 Contemporary Classics: Hovhannes, Prelude and Quadruple Fugue; Frestl, The Masks; Delius, Appalacia (Part 1); Grofe, Grand Canyon Suite
7:30 Highlight: Greek Week interview; Fred Good and Joan Kennedy
7:40 Sports Parade; Joe Grata
8:00 Sound of Folk Music: live and recorded talent
9:00 Meet the Professor: Lorene Jochem interviews Dr. Broderick discussing the dating habits of youth.
9:15 Mostly Music: Show music
10:00 Symphonic Notebook: Brahms, Symphony 1; Barber, Symphony 2; Mahler, Symphony 4

Soph Questions Suggestion To Punish Probationers

TO THE EDITOR: I have just read Joseph Melusky's "solution" to the academic probation problem on this campus, and it is easily seen that Melusky did not think very deeply.

He suggests barring students from "dances, sporting events, etc." by placing "some sort of distinguishing characteristic on their matric cards." Perhaps we should brand these people with an "F" for failure, analogous to the way they branded Hester Prynne in The Scarlet Letter; or maybe the University Book Exchange could sell T-shirts and sweatshirts with the individual's name and previous term average on the front. These suggestions would eliminate tedious paper work at registration.

How ridiculous! Each student has paid for the opportunities at this University, and it is entirely the student's own prerogative how he uses them. It doesn't take much thinking to understand that every student who has paid his tuition is entitled to attend any sports event or any such event as he pleases on the basis of his activities card.

I wonder if Melusky could ex-

plain how any student could possibly be barred from going to a dance, to the HUB, to a movie, etc., on the basis of his so-called "solution," and if this were possible, how is he so sure that the problem would be solved?

Melusky says that he believes students with good grades should have priority over students with poor grades. If, by misfortune, Melusky's theories are put into effect, I can well imagine the headlines appearing in a future edition of The Daily Collegian: "Penn State Students Resolved into Caste System."

I cannot accept Melusky's shallow thinking, and I must agree wholeheartedly with the editorial opinion expressed in The Daily Collegian, that the problem of academic probation is an individual problem. No amount of forced limitation on students' social activities will keep students off the probation list. If a student does not want to study, he can find an infinite number of ways to waste time. More important, it should not be the University's responsibility to force a student to study.

I must commend Melusky for at least offering a solution to the problem, but if suggestions are going to be made, I would like to hear some that make sense.

Albert F. Barbush '65

Misnomers at 'Big-U' Cited

TO THE EDITOR: I am an upper-classman, and it seems as though this vast store of knowledge that I have received at the Big-U has not been acquired in vain. I have observed a few misnomers that I feel warrant correction in keeping with the University's policy of "change for the better" (exemplified in the term system).

Old Main should no longer be called Old Main, but merely "Old Building." For in the complexities of office shifting, "Old Building" will no longer be of main importance and soon may house little more than a rusty bell, a malfunctioning make-believe noise-making device which we like to think is a bell, cracking plaster

and a president (if he's lucky).

Curtin Road which runs past Hort Woods deserves a new name because Hort Woods will be gone soon to make room for more classrooms and TV viewing rooms. "Curtin Road" seems improper somehow without Hort Woods. (NOTE: Frosh, if you miss this subtlety—speak to an upperclassman. He'll tell you stories to keep you on the edge of your seat with interest.) Aerial Road or Closed Circuit Road might be nice.

Concerning names of residence halls, might I suggest the map be given a half-turn to the right (or the printer stop drinking.)

But never change HUB, Home for Unloved Beatniks.

—Ralph Guokas '64

Hazing Rules Termed 'Ill-Defined'

TO THE EDITOR: We feel that the issue of Alpha Chi Sigma's social probation needs some clarification. The headlines in the Jan. 24 Collegian read "Fraternities Punished for Pledge Hazing." According to the recently passed IFC rule on hazing, any pledging activity outside the fraternity house is prohibited.

Unfortunately, this ruling prohibited Alpha Chi Sigma from carrying on a traditional, ritualistic initiation ceremony. (The IFC Board of Control report stated that the "ceremony was of a constructive nature"). We believed that such an infraction would be overlooked in our case because of the nature of the activity.

We do not wish to appeal the decision of the Board of Control. The Board had no choice but to give out a punishment for a law

violated. However, we feel that the existing hazing rules are ill-defined and may, in the future, serve to restrict the harmless activities of the very fraternities who passed them.

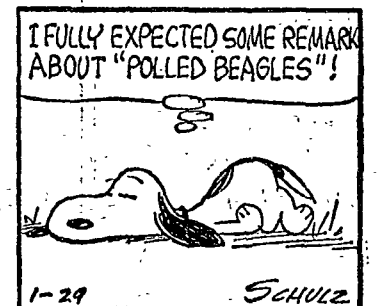
—Roger Long '63

President, Alpha Chi Sigma

Campus Beat

While most members of the administration were in Harrisburg attending the Board of Trustees meeting the Old Main Tower clock stopped. I wonder if this was a matter of time stopping while the important decisions of the University were made or just that some administrator forgot to delegate the daily duty of winding the clock.

—Prof Wayne



1-29 SCHULZ